

# LIVEWIRE

CBC PNA ONTARIO REGION

## TIME IS PRECIOUS...FOR ME, TOO

BY PNA ONTARIO PRESIDENT BARBARA SAXBERG



As we shift into fall, I've been thinking more about how quickly the seasons are flying by, and our lives are changing. We're losing family or friends far too frequently, and we're acutely aware of our own mortality. So how we choose to spend our time takes on heightened importance. Some of us put a greater focus on family. Some travel. Some write books or even launch new careers.

It doesn't seem to leave time for things that aren't on our bucket lists. For the PNA, it means finding people to volunteer can be a challenge.

But imagine a world without the PNA.

Think back. Before our Association was established 25 years ago, the relationship between the CBC and its pensioners was tepid at best. A small group of retirees understood the urgent need for a formal and meaningful relationship, and the PNA was born. Along with that came a seat at the table. It means we have a voice when decisions are made that affect our pensions and benefits.

*...continued on page 3*



Page 6	Ontario election update
Page 7	From the Vault
Page 8	PNA special event with Brian Stewart
Page 9	How I rebuilt my life and my body after the CBC
Page 11	We need to know where to find you
Page 12	By the Numbers: Members of the CBC pension plan Letter to the Editor
Page 13	Meet a Member: Bonnie Bryan
Page 15	PNA night out in Nickel city
Page 16	Memories of the CBC and much more
Page 19	Be a part of the conversation: Join the PNA on Facebook
Page 20	My memorable moment at the CBC
Page 21	Written any good books lately?
Page 25	Do you have a TCP? Protect yourself
Page 27	PNA recruitment campaign: Win a \$100 gift card
Page 28	In Memoriam
Page 30	Save the Dates
Page 31	Your PNA Ontario Board of Directors
Page 32	PNA membership form
Page 33	PNA Ontario Election nomination form

**TIME IS PRECIOUS, CONT'D...**

The PNA's accomplishments have made a significant difference in our lives, the most recent being the success in negotiating our fair share of surpluses in the CBC pension plan. Without the PNA, the pension surplus sharing agreement might never have materialized. This struggle took years, the work of many people, and the funding and persistence of the PNA.

It's not the only thing that has improved our lives. For example, we regularly assist and advocate for our members in accessing the Special Assistance Fund, which covers some health-related costs that aren't supported by other plans. We answer members' questions about their pensions and benefits. We co-ordinate dozens of social events each year across the country, so we can connect with former colleagues. And we are beginning to take a more active role in the political arena



to make sure the government doesn't backtrack on things like pharmacare or defined benefit pension plans, and encourage it to live up to its promises about the CBC.

None of these things would be happening without the PNA.

But here's the thing: the PNA is run by volunteers. We recognize that the PNA matters and have committed not only to helping keep it alive but to helping it strengthen and grow.

When we left the CBC, volunteering for the PNA was far from the first thing most of us had on our lists of what to do next. But if we agree that the PNA is important, is it fair to assume a handful of people will do it forever?

There are many ways to get involved, big and small. It could be helping to organize a gathering, writing a newsletter article, stuffing envelopes, joining a committee, helping manage our social media, taking pictures at an event, or sharing whatever expertise you may have.

*...continued*



## TIME IS PRECIOUS, CONT'D...

Currently, we're facing a PNA Ontario election. It may seem like a daunting commitment to run for a position. It's not. Whether at the chapter, region, or national level, serving on one of our boards is not overly time-consuming. Our volunteers—who all lead busy lives—shape the job according to their individual strengths and time available.

*If we agree that the PNA is important, is it fair to assume a handful of people will do it forever?*

At some point, the people currently doing the work will be gone. Then what? Who's going to keep an eye on our pensions and benefits? Who's going to advocate for the rights of CBC pensioners? Who will organize

social events, or write informative newsletters? Who will be there to help with your questions? My PNA colleagues and I will not be doing this forever, and we'd love to know others are ready and willing to take the reins.

All it takes on your part is to ask one simple question: "How can I help?"

**Livewire is the Ontario Region newsletter of the PNA**

**The CBC Pensioners  
National Association**

*Preserving our Future, Sharing our Past*

**L'Association nationale  
des retraités de la SRC**

*Assurer notre avenir, partager notre passé*

**Editor** – Talin Vartanian

**Associate Editor** – Bonnie Hewitt

**Layout** – Talin Vartanian

**Illustrations** – John Fraser, Scott Galley

**Photographs** – Caroline Bourdua, Johanne Pasion, Alex Waterhouse-Hayward

**Contributors** – Raj Ahluwalia, Gail Carducci, Suzanne Cunningham, Leone Earls, Rhoda Gryfe, Bonnie Hewitt, Bernie Lucht, Margaret Pacsu, Barbara Saxberg, Talin Vartanian

**Feedback and ideas are welcome.  
Please write to [pnalivewire@gmail.com](mailto:pnalivewire@gmail.com)**



## TIME IS PRECIOUS, CONT'D...

Currently, we're facing an PNA Ontario election. It may seem like a daunting commitment to run for a position. It's not. Whether at the chapter, region, or national level, serving on one of our boards is not overly time-consuming. Our volunteers—who all lead busy lives—shape the job according to their individual strengths and time available.

*If we agree that the PNA is important, is it fair to assume a handful of people will do it forever?*

At some point, the people currently doing the work will be gone. Then what? Who's going to keep an eye on our pensions and benefits? Who's going to advocate for the rights of CBC pensioners? Who will organize

social events, or write informative newsletters? Who will be there to help with your questions? My PNA colleagues and I will not be doing this forever, and we'd love to know others are ready and willing to take the reins.

All it takes on your part is to ask one simple question: "How can I help?"

**Livewire is the Ontario Region newsletter of the PNA**

**The CBC Pensioners  
National Association**

*Preserving our Future, Sharing our Past*

**L'Association nationale  
des retraités de la SRC**

*Assurer notre avenir, partager notre passé*

**Editor** – Talin Vartanian

**Associate Editor** – Bonnie Hewitt

**Layout** – Talin Vartanian

**Illustrations** – John Fraser, Scott Galley

**Photographs** – Caroline Bourdua

**Contributors** – Raj Ahluwalia, Gail Carducci, Suzanne Cunningham, Leone Earls, Rhoda Gryfe, Bonnie Hewitt, Bernie Lucht, Margaret Pacsu, Barbara Saxberg, Talin Vartanian

**Feedback and ideas are welcome.**

**Please write to [pnaLivewire@gmail.com](mailto:pnaLivewire@gmail.com).**

## ONTARIO ELECTION UPDATE

As the dog days of summer wane and autumn approaches, we look forward to cooler days, the return of fall fairs, raking leaves...and, of course, voting.

After all, what would fall be without elections?

The deadline for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary on the Ontario Region board of the PNA is quickly approaching. And for those who reside in Toronto and York Region, there are also four Director positions.

Nominations will be accepted until September 30<sup>th</sup>. The formal campaigning period will be throughout October. Elections will be from November 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>.

We hope that it's a robust process that builds on the strong work the PNA has done in recent years to advocate on behalf of retirees. That work played a critical role in securing access to a share of the CBC pension surplus.



Some people may be thinking of starting their campaigns already. And that's great. But for the process to be fair, respectful and equitable, we are asking the various chapters to hold off on organizing any all-candidates sessions until the nominations are closed.

We'd also ask that you take a similar approach with newsletters and publishing candidate bios.

If you have questions or would like more information, please reach out to the Elections Committee.

**[pnaelections2025@gmail.com](mailto:pnaelections2025@gmail.com)**

Raj Ahluwalia

Gail Carducci

Suzanne Cunningham

**Read about the candidates**  
**<https://www.cbcpensioners.ca>**

# FROM THE VAULT

BY RHODA GRYFE

With the launch of a national broadcasting system in the 1930s, CBC and Radio-Canada used their new technology to support studio orchestras in Vancouver (1938-2000), Winnipeg (1947-1984), Toronto (1952-1964), Montreal (1947-1968), and Quebec City (1954-1988). These orchestras reached far larger audiences than was previously possible from the confines of a concert hall. They also offered Canadian composers new opportunities to write for large orchestras and be heard by all Canadians.



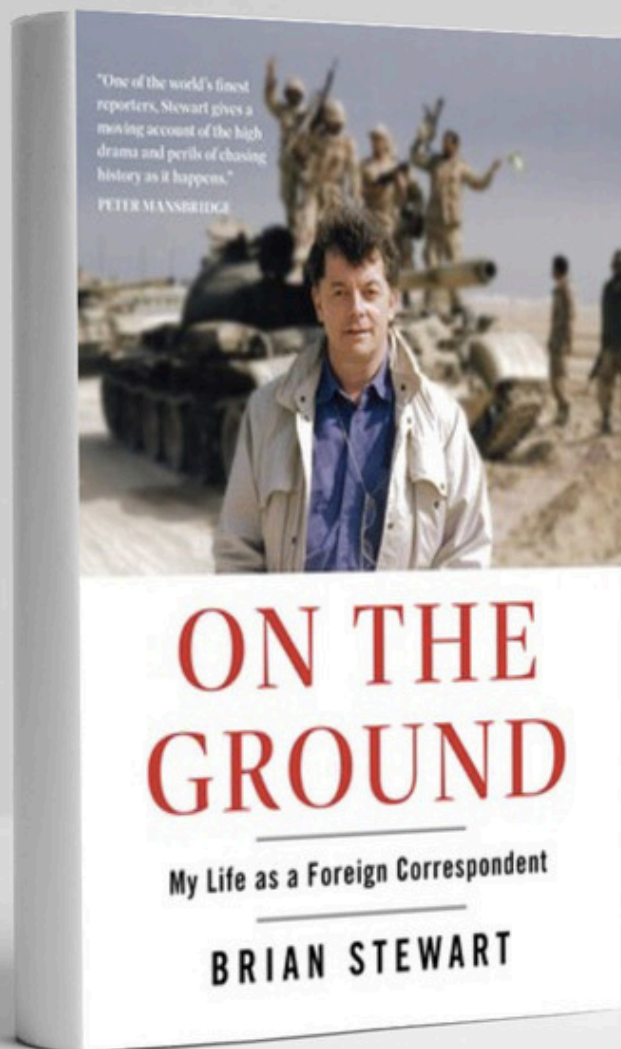
From the scrapbooks of Henk van Hassel comes this photo of Jack Kane and his orchestra performing "With a Song in My Heart" in CBC Toronto's Studio 7.

Famous in both Canada and the U.S. during the 1950s and early '60s, Kane was a talented arranger, composer, conductor and clarinetist frequently featured on CBC until his early death at age 36. (CBC photo)

In Vancouver's Studio One, conductor Mario Bernardi rehearses violinist Corey Cerovsek with the CBC Vancouver Orchestra, the longest running radio orchestra in North America. (Photo by Alex Waterhouse-Hayward)







## Join us for an afternoon with Brian Stewart, CBC's acclaimed foreign correspondent

Celebrating the release of his new memoir.

Brian will be in conversation with former CBC host Helen Mann and there will be plenty of time for audience questions and comments.

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

**Thursday October 30**  
**3 pm (doors open at 2:30 pm)**  
**Innis College Town Hall,**  
**University of Toronto**  
**2 Sussex Avenue**



**Interested attendees must RSVP to**  
**[cbcpensionerstoronto@gmail.com](mailto:cbcpensionerstoronto@gmail.com) by Friday October 24**

Event and light refreshments are courtesy of the CBC Pensioners National Association (PNA)



# HOW I REBUILT MY LIFE AND MY BODY AFTER THE CBC

BY BERNIE LUCHT

I retired from the CBC at the end of July 2014. For decades, my days had been chock-full, shaped by a demanding life at CBC Radio and the rigours of raising a growing young family. Now, here I was, at 69. My CBC life was over, the kids were grown, and empty days—days of freedom!—stretched as far as the eye could see. It was a shock to the system. What would I do with this newfound freedom? I would have to create a new life and invent a new shape for my days. It would take trial and error, imagination and time.

I began to reflect on what was important to me. One afternoon, I started a list. There are so many things I'm interested in, I thought, and began to write. I didn't get very far before I realized the list would have to be short, four or five topics at most. Anything more, and I'd become scattered and unfocused. As I wrote, what rose to the top was physical and mental health. Everything else would rest on that. The others were: a more outdoor life; perhaps some travel; learning new stuff—reading, watching and listening; doing creative work; writing; photography; and cultivating relationships with family and friends.

From what I'd read about health, I knew physical fitness improved quality of life. I would feel better, more alert, and energetic. I would sleep better. I would reduce the



Mount Kilimanjaro looms over the town of Moshi, the departure point. Bernie Lucht in July 2022, at the Lemosho Gate, where the climb begins. Photo courtesy of Bernie Lucht.

...continued

---

## HOW I REBUILT MY LIFE AND MY BODY, CONT'D...

risk of illness: heart disease, diabetes, cancer. I might even live longer.

This journey began much earlier, when I was in my early 50s, mid-career with a young family, but it would take decades to come to fruition. My father died of coronary disease when I was 10. Hoping to avoid a premature death, I told myself I'd have to get fit, for my sake, for my family's sake. So I joined a gym. I started with great ambition, going three days a week. I pursued a demanding routine: cardio, weights, stretching, balance. I started with a short introductory course, so I would know what to do. Then I got going. I was really gung-ho for about a month. Then my enthusiasm waned. My will withered. Why drive to the gym on a cold winter night when I could just stay home? Three days a week became two, then one, and one became none. Guilt crept in, gnawing guilt. Weeks of it. You're paying all this money to belong to a gym, and you're not going. Why don't you just quit? Save the money? But I didn't quit. A month or two would pass, and I'd rally and start again. From here, the story repeats itself: rinse and repeat. For years that turned into decades. This continued well into my retirement. Until the pandemic, which changed everything.

*You're paying all this money to belong to a gym,  
and you're not going. Why don't you just quit?  
Save the money? But I didn't quit.*

I spent the pandemic like many others, cooped up at home. Going for daily walks outside to maintain some semblance of physical health. But as time went by, my mood started to slip. I went full steam ahead into self-loathing. Then in late summer of 2021, the Ontario government announced that gyms would be allowed to open in the fall. I was excited. I made a firm resolution. I told my wife I need to seriously get fit. Here's what I want to do. I'm going to commit three mornings a week to the gym, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I'm going to hire a trainer once a week so I can learn what to do. I'm writing this into my schedule, in stone.

...continued



## HOW I REBUILT MY LIFE AND MY BODY, CONT'D...



Bernie Lucht above the clouds, three days above the summit of Kilimanjaro, atop the Baranco Wall. Photo courtesy of Bernie Lucht.

The gym opened in early September, and I started in, pursuing the training with dogged discipline. This time, I stuck with it. After a few weeks, the new habits took hold, and I was on my way to a new phase of fitness and health. I'm now four years in, and I'm still going strong. At 80, I feel better today—fitter, more confident, and healthier—than I felt as a much younger man. In 2022, I climbed Mount Kilimanjaro as a part of a team raising funds for literacy in Africa. It was the toughest physical and mental challenge I've ever faced.

I'm ready for the next adventure, whatever that may be.

## WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOU

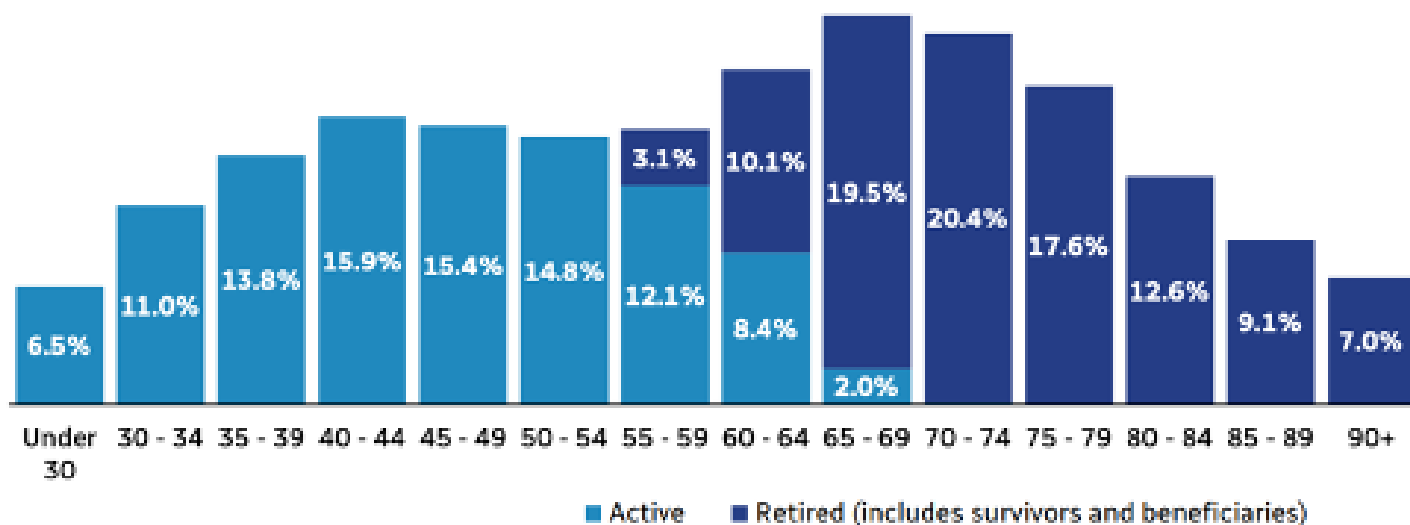
Have you moved? Do you have a new email address? Changed your phone number or email address?

The PNA needs to know. Please write to [cbcpensioners.ca](mailto:cbcpensioners.ca) with any changes in your coordinates. And write to [pension@cbc.ca](mailto:pension@cbc.ca) to make sure the Pension Administration Centre also knows where to find you.

## BY THE NUMBERS: MEMBERS OF THE CBC PENSION PLAN

### Active and Retired Members by Age

at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024



\*0.1% of active members are between the ages of 70-74.

\*0.6% of retired members are under the age of 55.

Active members are employees who are contributing to the pension plan.

**Source: 2024 Annual Report, CBC Pension Board of Trustees**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In the "From the Vault" feature in the March edition of *Livewire*, Rhoda Gryfe shared photos of 15 CBC properties across Toronto that were consolidated in the CBC Broadcasting Centre. She asked whether readers could identify the four buildings that weren't pictured. This letter came in response:

I noticed 22 Front Street wasn't listed. I worked there for 10 years in TV Film Services. Just had to mention.

Cheers,  
Ginny Huebsch

## MEET A MEMBER: BONNIE BRYAN

By BONNIE HEWITT

When Bonnie Bryan first applied for a senior clerk position at the CBC Broadcasting Centre in 1993, she had no idea she was taking the first step in a life-changing journey. She was armed with a college degree in administration, a recommendation from a good friend who was already working at CBC, and a few years of work experience under her belt. Bryan got the job.

She quickly made a name for herself in the Business Affairs department, working with the contract officers who created co-production and commercial contracts, constantly learning new skills and advancing her CBC career.

Bryan enjoyed writing and being creative and she was happy to flex those muscles as a contract specialist, working with Radio, the Glenn Gould Studio, and eventually handling acquisition contracts. She says one of the biggest perks was meeting and working with network stars. She never got over the thrill of spotting notable Canadians in the halls of the Broadcasting Centre, including Rita MacNeil, Molly Johnson, Allan Hawco, Alan Doyle, Rick Mercer, and Dave Broadfoot from *Air Farce*, to name a few. She also helped administrate and write contracts for *Road to Avonlea*, *Canadian Reflections*, *Wonderful World of Disney* and *Coronation Street*, among many others. Bryan thought of *Wonderful World of Disney* and *Coronation Street* as her “babies,”



Bryan in 1993, when she began her CBC career. (Photo courtesy of Bonnie Bryan)

during her final years at the CBC, establishing relationships with the distributors and making sure all the fine details were properly addressed.

Early in her CBC career, Bryan proved to be something of a computer and technology whiz, eventually becoming a software 'Super User.' In 2004, she was invited to join a new project, helping with the introduction of an "On Air" programming system that automated contract rights, commercials, payments, and all aspects of taking programs to air. The complex and deadline-driven assignment required her to travel to SRC headquarters

...continued



**MEET A MEMBER: BONNIE BRYAN, CONT'D...**

in Montreal several times to liaise with her French counterparts on the project. And along with inputting rights and payments for new contracts into the system, she trained other CBCers in how to use it, and worked with IT and Finance to help identify and fix any glitches.

Bryan decided to take early retirement in 2020, during the pandemic, ending a 27-year CBC career full of memorable milestones and accomplishments. The tributes from her co-workers show that her CBC legacy goes well beyond the skills she brought to the table. One described her as a "messenger of inspirational quotes,

dispatcher of kindness and empathy and agent of light and laughter," and others praised her "wealth of knowledge and expertise," and her "calm and good humour." One co-worker said Bryan was "the B in CBC".

She says she's especially proud of working with small, independent producers, answering their technical questions, dealing with red tape (directing them on getting Canadian content rulings, for example) and especially supporting them in telling the stories of under-represented small towns and rural Canadians. She recalls one producer in the far North questioning why anyone would want to watch stories of the Inuit fishing

and sealing. She assured them that condo dwellers in Toronto would enjoy these stories, then convinced them that the Indigenous arm of CBC GEM would probably enjoy having this content too.

Bryan was also adept at identifying potential landmines in contracts. For example, one production included a shot of a small child who was identifiable, on a boat dock. It turned out that was the producer's child, which meant there were no issues. In



Bryan on holiday in Greece. Photo by Johanne Pasion.

### MEET A MEMBER, CONT'D...

another program, a Cree girl playing basketball was wearing a T-shirt with the Montreal Canadiens logo. That meant contacting the team's management for approval. An executive signed a document stating the CBC did not have to fuzz out the logo.

Some of Bryan's fondest CBC memories took place away from the office, during a highly anticipated monthly event known as the BANO (Business Affairs Night Out), where co-workers enjoyed socializing, and forming what she describes as an indelible, family-like bond. Keeping in touch with those close friends is one reason Bryan joined the PNA as soon as she retired. She also appreciates how the PNA fights for its members. Bryan took advantage of the latest surplus payment by taking a bucket-list trip to Greece.

## PNA NIGHT OUT IN NICKEL CITY

Most PNA members in the province enjoy the perks of living in Toronto or belonging to one of our four Chapters: Golden Horseshoe, Durham-Trent, North-Central Ontario or Southwestern Ontario. PNA volunteers organize dinners, holiday celebrations and other events for their members. However, 45 people are scattered across the province in numbers too small to form a Chapter. That's true of our members in Sudbury and the surrounding area. Earlier this month, member Caroline Bourdua took the initiative to organize a dinner for a few members and their spouses at Pat & Mario's Kouzzina, courtesy of the PNA.



Clockwise from left: Lynn Lyons, Ed Lyons, Claude Gagnon, Scott's wife, Scott Lowe, Caroline Bourdua, Jacinthe Grenier and Robert McMillan. (Photo courtesy of Caroline Bourdua)

## MEMORIES OF THE CBC AND MUCH MORE

AN EXCERPT FROM MARGARET PACSU'S NEW BOOK

Margaret Pacsu worked at the CBC for more than two decades in several roles, including news announcer, TV interviewer, and host of much-loved CBC Radio music programs such as *Listen to the Music* and *Easy Street*. In her new memoir, she shares stories of her collaborations with Glenn Gould and Maureen Forrester; her interviews with Margaret Atwood and John Cleese; her early life in Princeton, New Jersey, then Paris; and the first time she met her future husband Bob Campbell, who was executive producer of *As It Happens* at the time.

Here is an excerpt from Pacsu's new book *The Long Road to Easy Street: A Memoir in Nineteen Movements*:

I had been at CBLT in Toronto for just over a year and a half when Tim Kotcheff called me into his office with a proposal. He told me there was an announcer position opening at the English network level, a permanent staff job. It would mean a variety of opportunities in radio and television, both local and network—from coast to coast to coast, as the CBC likes to say. A staff announcer must be knowledgeable, and capable of doing everything from live television



Promotional photo of Margaret Pacsu in 1975, for the program *Off Stage Voices*. (CBC image)

news and celebrity interviews to reading the late-night marine weather forecasts. The CBC had 29 network announcer positions at the time, no more, and there was only one woman staff announcer, Jan Tennant, an elegant and very capable woman who would become a good friend.

...continued



MARGARET PACSU, CONTINUED...

The position had just opened because the young man who had filled it for the past few years had taken a job with one of the three major American television networks. This had raised some eyebrows because the offer he'd accepted was with a game show. Alex Trebek took the job anyway and went on to host *Jeopardy*, the now legendary game show, for the next 37 years. I'd heard his name a few times in the office, although I'd never met the man. Unbeknownst to him, I took his position and so owe my career to the good judgment of that American producer who thought, correctly, this CBC announcer would make the perfect host for his new game show.

Reading the news on radio or television, interviewing celebrities, and VIPs, hosting music programs; the more I thought about it the more I realized this was the job I had been waiting for all my life. It could be almost fun.

I already knew the names of some of the other announcers because I'd seen them on television or listened to their programs. Harry Mannis, George McLean, George Finstad, and Lloyd Robertson were staff announcers at the time, and all possessed beautiful, rumbling voices. A few had elegant RAF-style moustaches, just like BBC announcers.

*Reading the news on radio or television, interviewing celebrities, and VIPs, hosting music programs; the more I thought about it the more I realized this was the job I had been waiting for all my life.*

Music programs? Well, I knew something about classical music, having heard it at my mother's knee; I loved jazz; and, of course, I'd listened to pop music on the radio for years here and in France. I didn't know much about country music, and certainly not Canadian country music, and nothing at all about Maritime fiddlers, but I figured I could learn. Opera would be a problem, though. I didn't know anything about opera. And to say I wasn't a fan would be an understatement. I only hoped I wouldn't be asked about

..continued

## MARGARET PACSU, CONTINUED...

it, and no one would notice.

With that consideration in mind, I thanked my executive producer and, after asking directions several times, found the radio building on Jarvis Street, and signed up for the staff announcer test. I returned several days later, and Ken Haslam, one of those men with a deep resonating voice and fighter-pilot moustache, walked me down the hall and held open the door to a small studio. He motioned for me to sit behind the wooden desk in a room barely big enough to hold it, handed me three typed pages titled "CBC Announce Test," and walked out. Moments later he reappeared behind the glass in the adjacent control room and pointed at the headset sitting on the desk next to me, wrapped around an overflowing black ashtray the size of a dinner plate. The headset looked like the kind you see radio operators wearing in war movies as they hammer out a desperate SOS—a spring metal band connecting two black Bakelite pucks that covered your ears, and a wire plugged into a box on the desk. I put it on gingerly, and he asked me to say something so he could get a level. He came back to adjust the microphone a few times, and then we started the test.



In 1995, Canadian contralto Maureen Forrester and Pacsu co-hosted the CBC Radio music series *On Stage*. (Photo courtesy of CBC)

There were grammar questions, words and sentences in foreign languages, largely unheard-of place names, the names of past and present politicians, composers, musicians, and a long list of words that are often mispronounced—"mischievous," and "anemone," and the like. It took about an hour, and it was stressful. In the end, I understood why the ashtray was so big and so full. If I'd had any cigarettes, I would have smoked too. I thought the test went well. It helped that I was fluent in French and knew enough of a few languages that I could pronounce the words. And I knew most of the proper names of places, not all though. I stumbled through Attawapiskat

..continued

MARGARET PACSU, CONTINUED...

and Tamagotchi. Fortunately for me, even the old CBC announcers who made up the test weren't mean enough to include the country's longest place name, Manitoba's Pekwachnamaykoskwaskwaypinwanik Lake (Cree for "where the wild trout are caught by fishing with hooks.")

A few days later, I received a letter in an interoffice mail envelope that changed my life. It didn't say much except that I had passed the test, and to please indicate by return interoffice mail whether I wanted to accept the announcer position.

Of course, I wanted it, and I accepted the offer right away.

**Margaret Pacsu's new memoir is *The Long Road to Easy Street: A Memoir in Nineteen Movements*. It is available from the usual sources or from [this page at Ardith Publishing](#).**

## BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION: JOIN THE PNA ON FACEBOOK



Join the National PNA and the Ontario page on Facebook for:

- Quick access to news, updates, and event information
- Connections with PNA members in Ontario and across the country.

**Follow "Ontario CBC PNA" and "CBC Pensioners National Association"**

# MY MEMORABLE MOMENT AT THE CBC

BY BONNIE HEWITT

I have so many great memories of my 15 years as a National News writer, and the most memorable was a literal moment in time—one I shared with people around the world. It was the split-second between 11:59 p.m. on New Year's Eve, 1999, and the dawn of the new millennium, 2000.



As you recall, in the preceding months, there was growing global fear that the Y2K Bug—a quirk in the original programming—would turn computer clocks back to 1900, shutting down everything. All power would turn off, planes could fall from the sky, and other catastrophic events would occur. Of course, we all know now that nothing happened, but the big “what-if?” wasn't really answered until the countdown to midnight was done. Being in the Northern Hemisphere, we had the advantage of watching the millennium arrive first in the small islands of the South Pacific, then in New Zealand and

Australia, and so on. As it became clear that everything was fine, waves of relief washed across the newsroom.

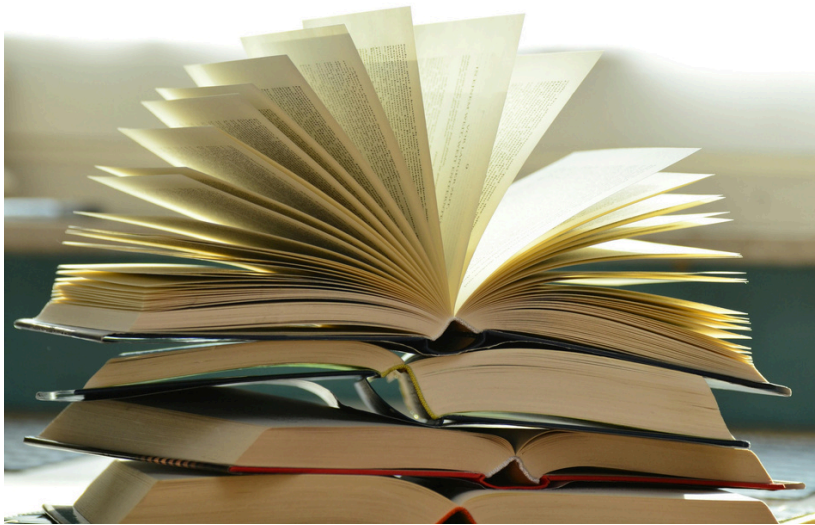
While we had to stay on the job to broadcast live to the west coast, the show was pretty much in the can by 11 p.m., so the producers pulled some strings, and said the writers could ring in the New Year on the roof of the Broadcasting Centre. So, we had front-row seats to the biggest fireworks display in Canada. Bright rockets, firing off the nearby CN Tower completed the countdown, followed by massive and multiple displays and celebrations across the city. It was a spectacular moment, and a half century later, it's still unforgettable!



Bonnie Hewitt  
(Photo by Bonnie Hewitt)



## WRITTEN ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?



Our members write books, and we'd like you to know about them. If you're an author and would like us to share news about your book, let us know:

[pnalivewire@gmail.com](mailto:pnalivewire@gmail.com)

***How My Dog Saved My Life: Thirty Tales of Courage and Compassion*** by Cate Cochran, to be published on November 4, 2025

A collection of heroic rescue stories about dogs that—through physical bravery and deep commitment—changed the lives of their owners. Whether they saved them from a burning building, ran a great distance to bring help to the scene of a car crash, or guided rescuers across a freezing tundra, these tales demonstrate the enduring love between humans and their dogs.

***On the Ground: My Life as a Foreign Correspondent*** by Brian Stewart, published in 2025

One of the CBC's most prominent foreign correspondents for *The National* reveals the cost, both personal and professional, of bringing home the truth from around the world. Brian Stewart was a witness to history for decades. He reported on some of the most exciting and horrifying events of the late 20th century, including the Gulf War and the Ethiopian famine. He also spoke with the likes of Margaret Thatcher, Pope John Paul II, and Nelson Mandela, as well as armed militants, activists, and aid workers.

**Return to page 7 for details about an upcoming PNA special event with Brian Stewart, at the University of Toronto.**

...continued

WRITTEN ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY, CONTINUED...

***The Long Road to Easy Street: A memoir in nineteen movements*** by Margaret Pacsu, published in 2025.

CBC broadcaster and writer Margaret Pacsu takes the reader from smoky jazz clubs in Paris to television control rooms. Read an excerpt from the book on page 16 of this newsletter.

***An Accidental Villain: A Soldier's Tale of War, Deceit and Exile*** by Linden MacIntyre, published in 2025

Another page turner by one of the CBC's most respected broadcast journalists, and host of *the fifth estate* for 24 years. Linden MacIntyre spent four years tracking the little-known life of Major General Sir Henry Tudor, who had distinguished himself on the battlefields of the First World War. Instead of enjoying a respectable retirement, Tudor answered the call of his friend Winston Churchill and, during the Irish War of Independence, led the police in a campaign of indiscriminate, state-sanctioned murder, changing the course of Irish history. Readers will discover a connection to the author's native Newfoundland.



The themes of justice, morality, and honour are threaded through Linden MacIntyre's career as a journalist, and as the author of many books, fiction and non-fiction. Here are all his titles:

***The Winter Wives***

Fiction, published in 2021

A psychological drama about two men who married sisters, although they both loved the same one. This is not only about a tangled relationship, but also a tale of deceit, and crime.

...continued

WRITTEN ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY, CONTINUED...

***The Wake: The Deadly Legacy of a Newfoundland Tsunami***

Non-fiction, published in 2019

The true story of a tsunami that struck the Burin Peninsula, the most destructive earthquake-related event in the history of Newfoundland. It killed 28 people, left hundreds homeless or destitute, and had an environmental impact that affected thousands in the decades that followed.

***The Only Café***

Fiction, published in 2017

An enigmatic man is haunted by his past in Lebanon. When he dies, his Canadian-born son unravels the threads of his father's traumatic life.



***Punishment***

Fiction, published in 2014

A corrections officer from Kingston Pen is forced to retire early, and returns to the village of his childhood. There, he finds a young con he knew from the prison, who was arrested for the suspicious death of a young girl he knows. What follows is a tale of plot twists, betrayals, and a call for punishment.

***Why Men Lie* (The Cape Breton Trilogy #3)**

Fiction, published in 2012

Effie MacAskill Gillis believes she knows why men lie, which is why she lives an independent life. After a chance encounter with an old friend, she concludes he has outgrown the need to tell lies, and Effie takes a gamble.

...continued



WRITTEN ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY, CONTINUED...

***The Bishop's Man*** (The Cape Breton Trilogy #2)

Fiction, published in 2009

Winner of the Giller Prize, the complicated story of Father Duncan MacAskill, a Cape Breton priest who agrees to reassign deviant clergy, and quell the anger of victims and their families. Then his life gets complicated.

***Causeway: A Passage From Innocence***

Non-fiction, published in 2006

An evocative memoir of growing up in Cape Breton. It revolves around the construction of the Canso Causeway, which links MacIntyre's childhood village to the mainland.

***Who Killed Ty Conn?***

Fiction, published in 2000

Co-authored with Theresa Burke, a true-crime classic about an adopted boy, who was deprived of a normal, healthy childhood, became a convicted bank robber, and met a tragic end.

***The Long Stretch*** (The Cape Breton Trilogy #1)

Fiction, published in 1999

A father and son confront a half century of half-truths and secrets that shaped and scarred their lives, their families, and their Cape Breton community.



## DO YOU HAVE A TCP? PROTECT YOURSELF

BY BONNIE HEWITT

There is an additional layer of protection that will help protect you financially: a Trusted Contact Person (TCP).

Consider that scammers tend to target seniors, and cybercrimes are becoming more sophisticated. In addition, some people face physical or cognitive health issues that can affect their ability to make sound financial decisions. Naming someone as your TCP can help.

A TCP essentially serves as an emergency contact for your bank or financial advisor. This person can contact your financial advisor with concerns about your ability to manage your finances, if they're worried about financial exploitation, or if they are unable to reach you. Your advisor can also reach out to your TCP with similar concerns.



While the decision to name a TCP is optional, the Ontario Securities Commission strongly recommends it.

When choosing your TCP, consider someone in your life who you trust implicitly—a relative, a close friend or perhaps even a neighbour—someone who's reliable, who would notice any changes in your life, and would be willing to help

"Naming a Trusted Contact Person is an important step in protecting your financial well-being," says financial literacy specialist, Terri Williams. "If your financial advisor cannot reach you for some reason, they have an emergency contact. Your TCP may be able to give your financial advisor some insight as to your whereabouts and your well-being."

...continued

### DO YOU HAVE A TCP, CONT'D...

This is not the same as a Power of Attorney. A TCP does not have the authority to make financial decisions on your behalf, can't have access to your accounts or conduct transactions, and is not your legal representative or guardian.

Naming a Trusted Contact Person can reduce stress, knowing your bank or financial advisor has extra help to protect you, your assets and accounts.

*This is not the same as a power of attorney. A TCP does not have the authority to make financial decisions on your behalf.*

[Click here](#) for more details from the Ontario Securities Commission about appointing someone as your TCP.

### NEW ADDRESS: CBC PENSION ADMINISTRATION CENTRE

Need to mail something via Canada Post to PAC? Here's the new address:

**2200-630 René-Lévesque Blvd W  
Montréal, Québec H3B 1S6**

### THERE'S A WORD FOR THAT!

**Destinesia** — When you get to where you intend to go but forget why you're there.

**Cellfish** — Describing those who talk on their cellphones, oblivious of people around them.

**Textpectation** — The anticipation one feels while waiting for a response to a text message.



## PNA Ontario Region Recruitment Campaign

# STRONGER TOGETHER

A chance to win a \$100 gift card for yourself and for each new member you recruit into the PNA

Three prizes for PNA members who recruit

Three prizes for new members who join

## MORE MEMBERS STRENGTHEN OUR VOICE

The PNA is the only organization that represents the interests of *all* CBC pensioners. About 4,000 of our former colleagues are benefiting, without joining.

Growing our membership means the Association can better protect our pensions and our interests

### How to enter the draw:

- Recruit a former colleague
- Recruit a spouse who is a CBC pensioner
- Receive one draw ballot for each person you bring into the PNA
- The person you recruit will have a chance to win, too!

### Who to notify:

Email [ontario@cbcpensioners.ca](mailto:ontario@cbcpensioners.ca) with your name and the name of the person you recruited.

### Deadline:

December 5, 2025 at 5 p.m. ET



**Raymond (Ray) Smart** died on April 22, at the age of 89. He had a short stint at the CBC as a Radio and Television tech before leaving Canada for California.

**Graham Snooks** died on February 3, at the age of 81. He was a chauffeur/driver for the CBC for more than 30 years.

**Stanley D. Graham** died on March 1, at the age of 89. He was a Cameraman, working on a variety of shows including Hockey Night in Canada and The Olympics.

**David Clouston** died on April 27, at the age of 91. We have no information about what he did for the CBC other than he retired in 1995.

**Raphael Berk** died on May 9, at the age of 90. We have no information about what he did for the CBC other than he retired in 1995.

**E. Gwyneth Stewart** died on May 15, at the age of 97. She was the wife of W. Brian Stewart, who retired in 1983 as head of Research Services for the CBC's Radio and Television networks.

**Rudolf (Rudi) Kovanic** died on May 28, at the age of 89. In 1962, he began his 33-year career as a cameraman for *The Nature of Things*.

**Liane Dudman** died in May at the age of 80. She worked at the CBC for about 28 years in the Sales Service department, which later became part of Media Solutions. She was a member of the Golden Horseshoe Chapter of the PNA.

**William (Bill) Law** died on June 13, at the age of 84. We have no information about what he did for the CBC.

...continued

## IN MEMORIAM, CONTINUED...

**Ian Challis** died on July 8, at the age of 80. He was as a sound technician on productions such as *The Nature of Things* and the documentary *Struggle for Democracy*.

**Simon Crouch** died on July 12, at the age of 67. He was a freelance reporter with the CBC in Ontario.

**Joan Leishman** died suddenly on August 3, at the age of 67. She was a veteran CBC journalist, specializing in international affairs. For more than a decade she worked as a documentary producer for *The National*. Joan was also bureau chief in Mexico City and she founded and opened the CBC's first bureau in Africa. She covered the Rwandan genocide and South Africa's violent transition from apartheid to the democratic election of Nelson Mandela.

**Nancy DiMenna** died on August 11. She was a video editor for *Marketplace*, the fifth estate, TV News, and *The National*.

**Hugh Donald (Don) Nelson** died on August 29, at the age of 87. He was an Anglican minister before he worked at the CBC as a security guard. For more than ten years after that, Don was a guest greeter for CBL Radio.





## SAVE THE DATES

**PNA holiday party plans are in the works, so save these dates in your calendar.  
More details to come.**

### **November 25**

Durham-Trent Chapter  
Kedron Dells Golf Club, Oshawa

### **November 26**

Golden Horseshoe Chapter  
Burlington Convention Centre  
(also the Chapter's triennial convention)

### **December 6**

Southwestern Ontario Chapter  
Caboto Club, Windsor

### **December 6**

Ontario Region  
Bier Markt, Toronto



## PNA AUTHORS AT THE HOLIDAY LUNCH IN TORONTO

**We are inviting PNA authors with new books this year to sell and sign them at the Ontario holiday lunch, at the Bier Markt on December 6th.**

**Stay tuned for more details.**

## YOUR ONTARIO REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **President**

Barbara Saxberg  
807.356.0802

### **Toronto Directors**

Sophia Hadzipetros  
647.970.3821

### **Durham-Trent President**

Effy Terry  
416.859.7355

### **Vice President**

Talin Vartanian  
416.780.1400

Susan Helwig  
416.535.0530

### **Golden Horseshoe Pres.**

Bob Waller  
905.278.1267

### **Treasurer**

Ben Daube  
416.481.1522

Lise Lareau  
416.524.5473

### **North Central President**

Kerry Johnston  
705.797.1469

### **Secretary**

Mike Darley  
416.703.1167

Nazat Lilley  
416.241.9579

### **Southwestern President**

Gino Piazza  
226.260.4110

**Email any member of the  
Ontario Board of Directors by writing to  
[ontario@cbcpensioners.ca](mailto:ontario@cbcpensioners.ca)**

**Visit the Ontario page of the PNA website for information  
about upcoming events, and to read our bylaws, and  
minutes of our Annual General Meeting.**

**<https://www.cbcpensioners.ca/regions/ontario/>**



**The CBC Pensioners  
National Association**

*Preserving our Future, Sharing our Past*

**L'Association nationale  
des retraités de la SRC**

*Assurer notre avenir, partager notre passé*

## ENROLMENT FORM – RETIREE

Clear data

### Please print

Name			
Street	City	Prov.	Postal Code
Telephone	Email		

☐ ***I wish to join now*** (please fill in the remaining sections of this form).

☐ *I am uncertain about joining at this time. I understand that, with the information given above, a representative of Association may contact me and, upon request, provide assistance with the enrolment process.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to join the CBC Pensioners National Association and hereby authorize the CBC to deduct monthly membership dues from my pension cheque and remit them to the Association. I also authorize the CBC to provide the Association with such personal information relating to me as the Association may require to facilitate the administration of dues and other services related to the welfare of pensioners.

All personal information provided to the Association by you or by the CBC is held in strict confidence.

**Membership dues are 0.32% of a member's gross pension payment. For every \$1,000 of monthly pension, a member would contribute \$3.20.**

CBC ID (See Notification of deposit, above your name)	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Gender (optional)
<b>Civil Status</b> <input type="radio"/> Single <input type="radio"/> Married <input type="radio"/> Widow/er <input type="radio"/> Divorced <input type="radio"/> Separated <input type="radio"/> Common-Law		
<b>Preferred language</b> <input type="radio"/> English <input type="radio"/> French	Date of retirement (dd/mm/yyyy)	

### Spousal information

Name			
Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Gender (optional)	<b>CBC Employee</b> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<b>CBC Retiree</b> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Signature Required

Date

This form can be mailed to:  
**The CBC Pensioners National Association**  
 P.O. Box 8570  
 Ottawa, ON K1G 3H9  
 or press the submit button to send via  
 email to [info@cbcpensioners.ca](mailto:info@cbcpensioners.ca)

Submit

**Nomination form for Ontario Region election**  
**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**or one of four Toronto Directors**

CBC Pensioners National Association Ontario Region  
Nomination Form 2025

Candidate Information:

Name:	Email:	Phone:
For the position of:		

Nominator Information:

Name:	Email:	Phone:
-------	--------	--------

Seconder:

Name:	Email:	Phone:
-------	--------	--------

All Ontario Region members may nominate, second, or become candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Only Toronto and York Region members may nominate, second, or become candidates for the 4 Toronto Director positions.

Completed nomination forms should be scanned or photographed and emailed to [PNAElections2025@gmail.com](mailto:PNAElections2025@gmail.com) before September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. They can be sent by post to CBC Pensioners Association, P.O. Box 8570, Ottawa, ON K1G 3H9. Forms received after September 30<sup>th</sup> will not be considered.